

FAQs: April Election Readiness

Q: Dane County Executive race, a candidate has withdrawn. What if anything should election inspectors say if questioned about this April 6?

A: Poll workers should not say anything about this if asked at the polling place as this is considered electioneering. It is up to the candidate to communicate their withdrawal to voters prior to the election.

Q: Do registered write ins get added into WisVote?

A: You can add them to WV and they will show up on call in sheets and in the Canvass system.

Q: As "calendar year" absentee requests will go through the WisVote system until 5:00 PM on Friday, April 2, what are the recommendations for handling these requests? Mailing them will most likely not get to the voter on time.

A: Clerks are required to honor any valid request received in accordance with the deadlines regardless of the likelihood of the ballot being returned in time to be counted.

Q: Can you give an example for this point? "Regardless, the presence of a write-in, registered or not, may affect a marked ballot contest."

A: For example, ballot instructions are vote for 1 and the voter votes for a ballot candidate and writes in a candidate. in that case the writ- in must be considered – even if it's not eligible to be counted - and the vote for the ballot candidate would not count.

Q: What if only registered write-ins may be counted for #4?

A: There is no ballot candidate in this example, so votes for both registered write-in candidates and unregistered write-in candidates may be counted.

Q: Resident wants to become a registered write-in. There is another voter within our municipality with the same name different middle initial. If resident were to submit paperwork to be a write-in, how would votes be counted for him? Would a voter have to include the middle initial of the write in candidate or we would still count if middle initial is not included?

A: The inclusion of a middle initial would help the inspectors determine voter intent in this situation.

Q: I thought all four principles needed to be applied when deciding whether or not to count a write-in vote.

A: They do.

Q: So, you are saying if it is a Vote for 2 and there are 2 registered write-ins; than the ballot candidate does not count?

A: If the voter *cast votes* for the two write-ins then there are enough write-ins to fill the seats and ballot candidates may not be considered.

Q: Do you need to include return postage on the EI-122? We have a lot bringing them back to the Clerk's Office.

A: Yes, return postage is required by state statute.

Q: If the contest is a vote for three and has two candidates do we only count registered write-ins?

A: You would count all write-ins is that scenario.

Q: Is the term 'eligible for counting' different than the term 'eligible to be a candidate, to be elected?'"

A: Yes, you will have to count votes for candidates' ineligible to be counted in certain situations.

Q: On example three, is that then considered an overvote?

A: I think it technically might be considered an undervote as no votes are counted for that contest. Regardless, no votes are counted.

Q: What if you have three trustees positions up for election. Only two candidates are showing on the ballot and the third seat, the individual decided not to run and that seat is open. However, I have two registered write-in candidates that are running for the open seat. So, what if someone votes for the two on the ballot and the two registered write-in candidates on the same ballot. Would that be an over-voted ballot since the ballot is vote for 3?

A: No. Keep in mind that in this situation, all write-ins may be counted because there are fewer ballot candidates than the number of votes the voter is entitled to. In this situation, the votes cast for the two write-in candidates will be counted. The voter is entitled to one more vote and since the number of write-in votes is not sufficient to fill the seats, ballot candidates may be considered.

However, the voter has cast votes for both ballot candidates, which is one too many votes than the voter is entitled to (3).

Results: The two votes for the write-ins would be counted. The voting equipment would see this as an overvote and no votes were recorded. The voting equipment tape should be adjusted to add a vote to each write-in candidate.

Q: #5 brings up overvote situation. The DS 200 should give the voter to redo the ballot, correct?

A: Good point, I will bring that up.

Q: In Voter 5 example, why would it not be that no votes would count? I thought that if there is a write-in, registered or not, that this would override any ballot candidates voted for when there are more candidates voted for than should have been.

A: It is a vote for two contest and there are two ballot candidates. Only registered write-ins may be counted. Martin Sheen is not a registered write-in, so the votes are counted for Wanda Round and Bill Melator.

Q: Do we add the write in to tape on Voter 6 write in?

A: No, the voting equipment should have tallied the vote for the write-in.

Q: Voter 5, If the write-in were registered, how are 2 votes selected in this scenario?

A: The write-in, Martin Sheen, is not a registered write-in.

Q: We have several voters who cannot sign the poll book, what is the correct wording to put where they would sign, by the poll workers.

A: Please write "Exempt by order of inspectors" in the signature block on the poll book.

Q: Will there be an update to the Badger Books to update the Photo ID expiration dates prior to the April election?

A: Contact the Badger Book team to discuss!

Q: The link for supplies takes you to deciding on a new polling.

A: The last attachment is the supply order form.

Q: The college ID's need to be from a Wisconsin college/University/Tech college correct? not out of state?

A: Correct.

Q: Does the college ID have to have a signature?

A: Yes, the voter signature is required.

Q: We have voters that always write in Nobody, no one, anyone. Do we need to tally those if write ins are counted?

A: I think you have to acknowledge them but if there is nothing to tally then I would say that they do not need to be tallied.

Q: Can we get the POR/POI tip sheet updated so that it is clear that only IDs issues from Wisconsin colleges/universities are acceptable?

A: Good suggestion. It is listed on the tip sheet as it is in statute, but it would be helpful to add Wisconsin to the category.

Q: Does it matter if the photo ID we have on file is expired for absentee voting?

A: Once a by mail absentee voter provides an acceptable photo ID, they do not have to provide another one for by mail absentee voting unless they change their name or address.

Q: Does the tribal id need to be issued by the state of Wisconsin, or can it be from another state?

A: The tribal ID must be an identification card issued by a federally recognized tribe in Wisconsin.

Q: Can you send out the list of questions and answers that are listed here?

A: They will be posted with the recording and related materials on the webinar page.

Q: If I have an absentee voter's registration and photo ID, and for some reason they did not get a ballot for the last election, can I issue them an absentee ballot if they send me a request via email?

A: Yes, and you can still send them one for April if they made a calendar year request or are an indefinitely confined voter.

Q: Any possibility that Clerks and staff will be included in current vaccination group?

A: That's not up to us. If it were, we would say yes!

Q: Just an FYI - I called on February 16 regarding a photo ID that expired in September. The voter was exempted by the DMV, but the person I spoke to at WEC said we could not accept it and my voter voted provisionally. She did come in the next day with her updated Photo ID, but I thought I would mention this. I do not know if the opinion from WEC changed after the February primary, but if it was not new advice, might want to share with those taking phone calls. :)

A: Thanks. The same guidance regarding the expiration date extension should have been in place for the February primary. We will make sure everyone is on the same page!

Q: Found it: <https://elections.wi.gov/node/6787>.

A: Great! let us know if you need anything else!

Q: Can we have unmasked voters vote in a separate area?

A: Yes, you can have a separate area in the polling room for voters who are unmasked. Such as putting one polling booth farther away from other polling booths.

Q: We had voters that had been exposed (and we did curbside voting), but the voters did NOT have masks on. Shouldn't they have been required to wear masks?

A: Voters cannot be required to wear masks as a condition of voting.

Q: To clarify, she is over 60 and therefore, was given the grace period by DMV, the person on phone said that the DMV Administrative rule changed but that did not mean the law did.

A: Thanks.

Q: I was asking if they can send me an email request?

A: Yes, absentee requests can be made via email.

Q: Will the absentee envelope ever require the witness to print their name besides writing their name, I have had a few returned ballots where I cannot read the witnesses' name

A: State law only requires the witness signature, so a change to require a witness' printed name would require legislative action.

Q: Just to confirm, if we have Central Count, we should not allow voters to drop off at the poll site?

A: Voters should be directed to the Central Count location or the clerk's office. The ballots must be at the Central Count location by 8 pm.

Q: I was just warned this past April that I could not say that absentee ballots cannot be dropped off at the polls? What the heck?

A: Voters are allowed by law to drop their completed absentee ballots off at their polling place before 8:00 p.m. Voters in Central Count municipalities may drop them off at the Central Count location.